

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 AGR-20 IO-14

COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08 DRC-01 RSC-01 /092 W

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R 131305Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1425

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6349

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJ: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: LDC PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 095838

SUMMARY: YES, INDIA HAS A MAJOR FERTILIZER PROBLEM. WE
KNOW IT AND THEY KNOW IT. WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT WE WOULD
BE WILLING TO HELP AND THE BALL IS IN THE INDIAN COURT.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE SUBMITTED EXTENSIVE MATERIAL ON THE INDIAN
FERTILIZER INDUSTRY. THE INDUSTRY IS PRODUCING AT FAR
LESS THAN CAPACITY, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, IT IS PRODUCING
AT ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. THE GOI FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER ON DOWN IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND IT WOULD
NOT BE EITHER NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR US TO RAISE THIS
ISSUE WITH THE GOI AGAIN. THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF
REASONS FOR THE SHORTFALL SUCH AS POWER CUTOFFS, STARVING
OF INDUSTRY FOR SPARE PARTS, POOR MANAGEMENT AND DESIGN.
SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE DEALT WITH BY OUTSIDE ASSIS-
TANCE WHILE OTHERS ARE PURELY DOMESTIC.

2. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE OFFER OF TVA ASSISTANCE
AND WE HAVE MADE THE GOI AWARE OF THIS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF
HELP. THE GOI HAS SO FAR NOT MADE ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR
OUR ASSISTANCE.

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3. WE HAVE NO CURRENT YEAR FUNDED AID PROGRAM OPERATING IN INDIA AT PRESENT OTHER THAN A TITLE II PROGRAM. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING AID TALKS THE GOI HAS INDICATED TO US THAT ONE PRIORITY PROJECT WOULD BE TO IMPROVE OUTPUT IN THE FERTILIZER INDUSTRY. WE HAVE WELCOMED THIS IDEA BUT CAN DO NOTHING UNTIL (AND IF) AID DISCUSSIONS OPEN AND WE GET A GOI REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

4. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO REPORT ALL SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CRUCIAL INDUSTRY.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FERTILIZERS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
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TAGS: EAGR, IN, US
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